

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Toyohiko Konno on 1/26/12.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

3. Delete "Method and".

In the abstract:

4. In line 5 delete "(8)".

5. In line 6 delete "(7)".

6. In line 7 delete "(9)".

7. In line 9 delete "(11)".

8. In line 11 delete "(12)".

9. In line 15 delete "(1)".

In the Claims:

10. Cancel claims 1-5 directed to the non-elected invention.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

11. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for sealing members made of plastic-coated paper or board including "a means for opening the seal point by pressing sealable member apart, said means for opening the seal point comprising two successive elements pushing in between the paper or board members along the sealing line" and "a laser head for directing a laser beam melting a plastic coating to the opened seal point located between said two successive elements".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **JOHN GOFF** whose telephone number is **(571)272-1216**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katarzyna Wyrozebski can be reached on (571) 272-1127. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1746

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JOHN GOFF/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1746